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(BUSH)

NEW HAVEN, CONN. (UPI) -- GEORGE BUSH, FORMER NATIONAL GOP CHAIRMAN AND CIA DIRECTOR UNDER PRESIDENTS NIXON AND FORD RESPECTIVELY, PLANS TO REMAIN ACTIVE IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

BUSH, WHO TOLD NEWSMEN YESTERDAY HE HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO SEEK PUBLIC OFFICE, SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AMERICAN STRENGTH IN THE WORLD.

HE SAID HE MET TWICE WITH CARTER DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND THE PRESIDENT-ELECT "ASKED PENETRATING QUESTIONS ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY."

BUSH SPOKE AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AT HIS ALMA MATER, YALE UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE BEGAN A THREE DAY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT AS A CHUBB FELLOW.

BUSH SAID HE WASN'T CONCERNED BY THE FACT THAT NO ONE NOW HEADS THE CIA AS A RESULT OF THEODORE SORENSON'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NOMINATION. HE SAID HE WAS NOT ASKED BY CARTER TO REMAIN IN THE INTERIM.

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